



# Volunteer Newsletter 2020

## A Summary of the 2019 Sampling Season

### California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

Greetings CCFRP Volunteer Anglers,

With your help, Cal Poly CCFRP has completed the 2019 sampling season! 2019 marks the 13<sup>th</sup> season of data collection inside and outside of marine protected areas (MPAs) on the central California coast. This season we completed 12 trips, fishing for a total of 335 hours. In that time, we caught a total of 4,551 fishes comprised of 27 species. This season, we caught approximately 14 fishes per angler hour. Thank you for participating in this remarkable season -we couldn't have done it without you!



We will be hosting an angler appreciation event this spring or early summer to celebrate all the hard work you did this season. However, due to concerns around the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we will be postponing the event until a later date. We apologize for the delay and look forward to catching up with everyone as soon as possible.

**The Cal Poly Pier  
TBD**

Keep an eye out for email updates about this event which will come from the address [ccfrpslo@gmail.com](mailto:ccfrpslo@gmail.com).



**NOAA FISHERIES**



## Join Us for the 2020 Sampling Season

We need your help to have another successful season! Be sure to monitor your email for details about the upcoming 2020 CCFRP sampling season. This email will include the 2020 sampling schedule. Once the schedule is released, make sure to email us promptly to secure your fishing spots. We are working hard behind the scenes to prepare and get those dates to you as soon as possible.



## CCFRP Science Crew Updates

**Deanna Kelsey** finished her Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Sciences at Cal Poly in June and worked for the Department of Fish and Wildlife (California Recreational Fisheries Survey). She is now working for Virg's Landing as a deckhand on the Fiesta -say hi to Deanna next time you are out! **Chandler Skinner-Horne** and **Peter VanderBloomer** also finished their Bachelor of Science degrees. Chandler is now working at a ski resort and Peter is working locally at an environmental consulting firm. After joining us for another exciting field season, **Meghan Fox** left for her senior year at Humboldt State University where she will continue her bachelor's work in marine fisheries biology. **Alicia Ellingson** is working hard to finish her bachelor's degree at Cal Poly, as well as working on an interesting senior project investigating the catch differences between swimbaits and other CCFRP gear (see page 3 for more on this project). **Nicholas Soares** joined CCFRP this season as an undergraduate student researcher. He is also investigating potentially toxic phytoplankton with the Harmful Algal Blooms monitoring group. New masters student, **Erin Johnston**, joined the CCFRP crew this year to investigate how marine heatwaves affect groundfish in central California. **Ellie Brauer** continued her masters research: using rockfish growth hormones as a non-lethal way to obtain growth rate information. **Theresa Bursin** is finishing up her masters research on rockfish blood hormones. **Rose Dodgen** is defending her master's thesis this March! She was selected as a SeaGrant Fellow for the Fish and Game Commission -go Rose! **Grant Waltz** is working tirelessly to keep us in line, organize dates for the upcoming fishing season, and analyze data from the 2019 fishing season (see page 6 for a sample of these statistics).



**Dr. Benjamin Ruttenberg** joined the project last season as a Cal Poly CCFRP PI. As the new director of the Center for Coastal Marine Sciences, Ben has numerous interests including the effects of climate variability on fish populations. On his first ever CCFRP trip, Ben caught a rock (not a rockfish).



**Dr. Dean Wendt**, in conjunction with CCFRP PIs at other institutions, secured funding for the upcoming sampling season once again. We tip our hats to this amazing scientist, who not only heads our project, but runs the entire Cal Poly College of Science and Mathematics.

## Swimbait! Get your swimbaits!

Undergraduate student researcher, **Alicia Ellingson**, recently presented her senior project research on swimbaits at a CCFPR conference in Moss Landing. For this research, she investigated the difference in catch per unit effort, fish lengths, and species diversity between fishes caught on swimbaits and the traditional CCFPR gear (lingcod bars, unbaited shrimpflies, and shrimpflies baited with squid).



Lingcod bar



Bare shrimpfly



Baited shrimpfly



Swimbait



Alicia took four trips out to the Point Buchon MPA on the R/V Richards

Gear types used included baited shrimpflies, unbaited shrimpflies, lingcod bars, and swimbaits

Alicia is currently analyzing the catch data to determine the differences between catch per unit effort, species diversity, and length of caught fishes between the different gear types.



**CAL POLY**  
Center for Coastal Marine Sciences



## Tag Recaptures in 2019

Tag returns are an exciting part of our program! This is one valuable way for us to learn about the movement and growth rates of fishes that are caught and released on our sampling trips. We had **seven tag returns** this year from Piedras Blancas and Point Buchon! One Vermilion, recaptured on 7/22/19, was originally tagged on 9/10/15 -1,412 days at liberty!

See the following page for more information on each of these returns.



## Tag Recaptures in 2019 (continued)

Fish	Date Tagged	Date Recaptured	Days at Liberty	Fish Species	Area Caught
1	9/10/15	7/22/19	1412	Vermilion rockfish	Point Buchon SMR
2	7/16/18	7/22/19	372	Vermilion rockfish	Point Buchon SMR
3	8/5/19	8/5/19	0	Copper rockfish	Piedras Blancas SMR
4	8/1/17	8/5/19	735	Copper rockfish	Piedras Blancas SMR
5	7/22/19	9/10/19	51	Copper rockfish	Point Buchon SMR
6	9/8/16	9/10/19	1098	Gopher rockfish	Point Buchon SMR
7	7/17/17	9/16/19	792	Olive rockfish	Piedras Blancas SMR

- This year was a big year for Copper rockfish returns! Three out of seven tag recaptures in 2019 were from Copper rockfish
- Fish #1 and #6 each spent 3+ years at liberty before being recaptured.
- Fish #3 was tagged on the same day that it was recaptured!
- All tag recaptures in 2019 were in the MPA
- 4/7 recaptures were in Point Buchon SMR and 3/7 recaptures were in Piedras Blancas SMR



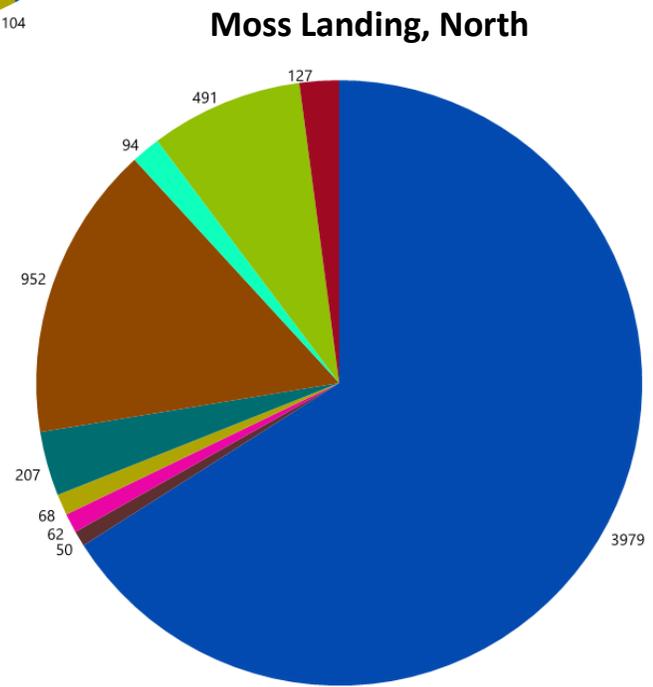
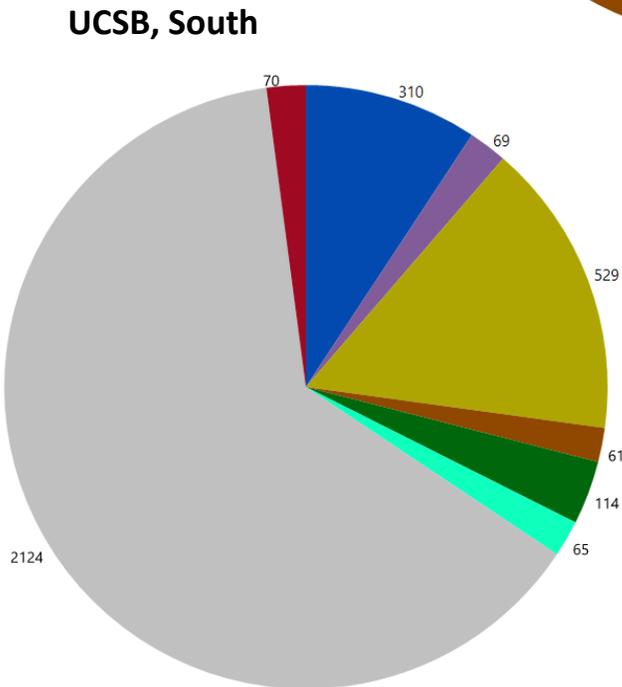
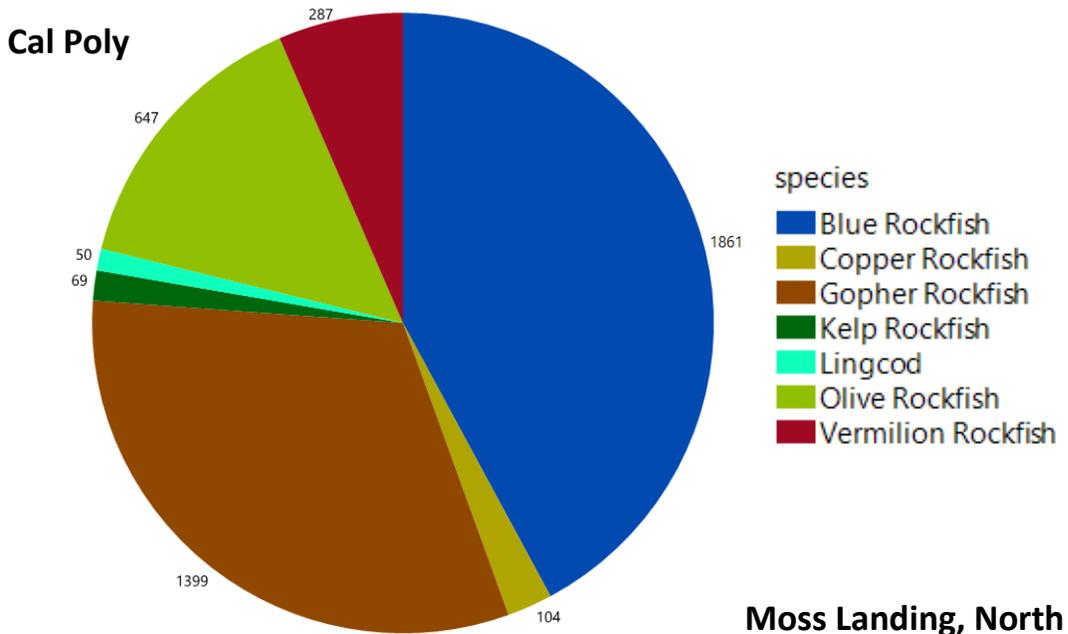
**Please remember to check for tags next time you are out fishing!**

We rely on the fishing community for this important source of information on tagged fishes. Remember that information from a tagged fish is worth \$20 and is priceless information for fisheries science! If you catch a tagged fish, please record the species, length, depth, and coordinates and contact: [seagrant@mlml.calstate.edu](mailto:seagrant@mlml.calstate.edu)

# Cal Poly CCFRP Summary Statistics

This year, we caught 4,551 fishes over 335 angler hours. That is the equivalent of approximately 14 fishes per angler hour. Seven species (below) represented 97% of the total catch for Cal Poly CCFRP in 2019. Blue rockfish and Gopher rockfish together represented 72% of the total catch for Cal Poly CCFRP in 2019.

This is how Cal Poly's catch compares with UC Santa Barbara (located south of Point Conception) and Moss Landing Marine Laboratory (located between Monterey and Santa Cruz).



- species
- Blue Rockfish
  - California Sheephead
  - Copper Rockfish
  - Gopher Rockfish
  - Kelp Bass
  - Lingcod
  - Ocean Whitefish
  - Vermilion Rockfish

- species
- Blue Rockfish
  - Brown Rockfish
  - China Rockfish
  - Copper Rockfish
  - Deacon Rockfish
  - Gopher Rockfish
  - Lingcod
  - Olive Rockfish
  - Vermilion Rockfish

# THANK YOU SO MUCH!

